

EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO-BYTES

A Wrap-Up of Issues & Events in EPA's
Mid-Atlantic Region
October 22, 1999

Internet

Welcome to Enviro-Bytes, a weekly news wrap-up
from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's
Region 3 mid-Atlantic office in Philadelphia. If you
are reading Enviro-Bytes as a hard copy or on the
Internet and would like to receive it regularly by
e-mail, do the following:

1) send a message to:
listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov

2) the subject may be anything

3) type in the body of the message:
subscribe usepar3news (your name)

MOOSIC MOUNTAIN SAVED

Governor Tom Ridge announced at an awards
dinner in Wilkes-Barre on October 20 that
Pennsylvania will give a \$1.1 million land trust grant
to the Nature Conservancy to acquire 1,200 acres
on Moosic Mountain. The mountain was a
proposed site of an industrial park. The
conservancy will match that dollar figure and buy the
land from the Scranton Lackawanna Industrial
Building Company.

ENVIRO ED GRANT APPS ON WEB

The Environmental Education Grant packages for
Fiscal Year 2000 are available both in print and on
the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed>. The
grants can be awarded to a non-profit organization,
school or local community group for an interactive
environmental education activity.

EPA FUNDING IN PLACE FOR 2000

The President signed the fiscal year 2000
Veteran's Administration, Housing and Urban
Development and Independent Agencies
Appropriations Bill on Wednesday, October 20,
1999. This bill provides \$7.6 billion for EPA. This is
\$385 million more than the President's Request
and \$1.3 million more than the agency's FY 1999
Enacted level.

LEAD SAFE AMERICA CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

The Department of Housing and Urban

Development will be declaring the week of October 24-30, 1999 as National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. Local and state lead agencies and advocacy groups across the nation, including many in Region III, will be joining in this event with issuance of press releases, newspaper articles, speaking engagements on talk radio shows and blood lead screening fairs and expos, etc.

BALTIMORE GETS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT

As a Brownfields Showcase City, Baltimore will receive a \$975,000 Economic Development Initiative Grant and \$5 million in loans from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Part of the grant will be used for the redevelopment of an 80-acre former oil distribution site, located in the Chesapeake Business Center, and to provide customized training for empowerment zone residents and former welfare recipients. When fully developed, the Chesapeake Business Center will offer 1.3 million square feet of industrial space within minutes from the Port of Baltimore and I-95. The project is expected to create an additional 1,500 new jobs.

PARKERSBURG WVA DRY CLEANING SITE ON NPL

EPA added the Vienna Tetrachloroethene site near Parkersburg, W. Va. to the Superfund National Priorities List of most hazardous waste sites on October 22. Nationwide, EPA is adding 10 sites and proposing to add nine sites to the list. The site is located in a commercial and residential area of downtown Vienna, a suburb of Parkersburg, W.Va. Soils and groundwater in the area are contaminated with the dry cleaning solvent tetrachloroethene, better known as PCE, a suspected carcinogen. Six of Vienna's 12 municipal wells were shut down in 1992 because of PCE contamination. EPA subsequently spent emergency funds to construct two new wells. The NPL listing will help ensure that the municipal water systems which serve approximately 55,000 people in Vienna and Parkersburg will not become contaminated by PCE m groundwater in the future.

D.C. CONTRACTOR ACQUITTED OF ASBESTOS CHARGES

On October 15, in the first environmental criminal jury trial in Washington, D.C., Norman L. Washington, the president of Washington General Contractors, was found not guilty of knowingly violating the Clean Air Act's asbestos requirements. The defense argued that Washington had believed that the unauthorized workers he hired to remove asbestos were supervised by a licensed asbestos worker, and also contended that the

client's construction manager was responsible for any violations that may have occurred.

COMPANIES TO SUPPLY CLEAN WATER TO RESIDENTS

On October 21, an Emergency Administrative Order on Consent was issued to Black Diamond Energies, Inc., of Hyndman, Pa. and Cargill, Inc. of North Olmsted, Ohio requiring the companies to supply clean water to an Ellerslie, Maryland homeowner. In the order, EPA alleged Black Diamond failed to properly maintain a salt pile at its facility. Cargill supplies the Black Diamond facility with road salt that is sold to state, county, and local governments for winter highway maintenance. The Order alleges that water runoff from a salt pile at the site caused or contributed to the contamination of a private drinking well located about one quarter mile south of the salt storage site. Tests of the well water show a high concentration of sodium and chloride. Within 10 days of the effective date of the Order, the companies must supply the affected family with a temporary alternate water supply and within 120 days, the companies must supply a permanent alternate water supply. Also, within 90 days of the effective date of the Order, the companies are required to either remove the salt from the site or take steps to control storm water runoff.

EPA PROPOSES NEW RADON STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER

On October 19, Administrator Browner signed a proposal for regulations for new radon standards in drinking water. The proposal provides two options to states and water systems for reducing health risks from radon in drinking water and indoor air, using either water treatment and/or addressing the indoor air component. This proposal only applies to community water systems that use ground water. Systems depending solely on surface water are not affected by this proposal. The proposal will be printed in the Federal Register by mid-November, with a 60-day public comment period. The proposal, and related information can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/radon.html.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS REACH CONSUMERS AND THE INTERNET

October 19 marked the first deadline for all community water suppliers to distribute consumer confidence or drinking water quality reports to consumers. While it is still too early to call, preliminary numbers from the Region 3 states indicate between 33-66 percent of the water systems have submitted their reports. These percentages are expected to climb once all of the data is entered into the state tracking systems. The data is not due to be reported to EPA until

February, 2000, although Region 3 states have agreed to submit their information early next month. While these figures appear low, it should be noted that in Maryland, 33 percent of the water systems that have distributed the reports serve 95 percent of the population receiving water from community public water systems. To assist the public in locating the reports, EPA created a catalog page at www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html.

DC WATER QUALITY STANDARDS PUBLISHED

The District's Water Quality Standards package was published in the D.C. Register on October 8. EPA is reviewing the package and will provide comments within 30 days.

END